

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 SMI-01 RSC-01 DRC-01 CEQ-01 EPA-04

IO-10 FEA-01 /034 W

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R 170215Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5307

INFO AEC GERMANTOWN

UNCLAS TOKYO 13497

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, JA

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR SHIP MUTSU

REF: A. SMITHSONIAN TELEX 10/1/74; B. STATE 218344;
C. STATE 222719.

1. REF. B. DEPT. CORRECT IN THAT NO DETECTABLE RADIO-ACTIVE MATERIAL LEAKED FROM MUTSU AND THAT NO PERSONS RECEIVED SIGNIFICANT RADIATION FROM MUTSU REACTOR OPERATION. FROM AVAILABLE EVIDENCE, EVENT DID NOT AFFECT ENVIRONMENT. HOWEVER WOULD APPRECIATE PASSING FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO SMITHSONIAN SO THEY CAN DECIDE ON FOLLOW-UP.

2. NUCLEAR SHIP MUTSU DEPARTED HOME SERVICE PORT IN MUTSU CITY, AOMORI PREFECTURE, JAPAN ON AUG. 26, 12:45 AM FOR POINT 800 KM EAST OF CAPE SHIRIYA, NORTHERN JAPAN, WHERE INCIDENT OCCURRED ABOUT 5:00 PM SEPT. 2. INDICATIONS WERE THAT 0.2 MILLIROENTGENS GAMMA RAYS AND NEUTRONS AT 3,300 COUNTS PER MINUTE WERE DETECTED OUTSIDE THE REACTOR SHIELD. DURATION OF INCIDENT NOT PUBLISHED BUT BELIEVED SHORT, FEW MINUTES OR LESS, BECAUSE ALARM SYSTEM WAS TRIPPED BY HIGH COUNT RATE. THEREAFTER AMID CONTROVERSY THE SHIP REMAINED AT SEA WITH ITS REACTOR SHUT DOWN (EXCEPT POSSIBLY FOR SHORT LOW POWER DIAGNOSTIC TESTS) UNTIL THE AFTERNOON OF OCT. 15 WHEN IT WAS BROUGHT BACK
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TO ITS SERVICE PORT AT MUTSU CITY.

3. SHIP WAS BUILT BY ISHIKAWAJIMA HARIMA HEAVY INDUSTRIES CO. LTD, AND THE REACTOR WAS BUILT BY MITSUBISHI HEAVY INDUSTRIES CO. UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE JAPAN NUCLEAR SHIP DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (JNSDA).

4. JAPAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AGENCY IS INVESTIGATING THE EVENT. EMBASSY DOES NOT PLAN FURTHER ENQUIRIES SPECIFICALLY ON SMITHSONIAN INTEREST, REF. A, UNLESS SMITHSONIAN, IN LIGHT OF ABOVE EXPLANATION, STILL REQUIRES ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. HOWEVER, EMBASSY PLANS CONTINUE NORMAL REPORTING. INCIDENTS OF THIS TPE OFTEN HAVE POLITICAL IMPACT AND EMBASSY SUGGESTS GUIDELINES REFERRED TO IN PARA. 1 OF REF. C SHOULD INCLUDE COORDINATION WITH APPROPRIATE EMBASSY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: MONITORING, NUCLEAR POWERED SHIPS, NUCLEAR HAZARDS
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Draft Date: 17 OCT 1974
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Drafter: n/a
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